

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A prosthetic device for lateral insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising
a first component having a first laterally-extending flange configured to advance into a laterally extending preformed opening in a first vertebra from a lateral approach, the first flange extending from a first bearing surface offset from a first center point of the first bearing surface, the first flange including a portion adjacent the bearing surface and a top-most portion spaced from the bearing surface, the top-most portion laterally extending along a substantial portion of the first flange, the first component having a first articular surface opposite the first bearing surface, and

a second component having a second laterally-extending flange for engaging a second vertebra from a lateral approach, the second flange extending from a second bearing surface offset from a second center point of the second bearing surface, the second flange including a portion adjacent the bearing surface and a bottom-most portion spaced from the bearing surface, the bottom-most portion laterally extending along a substantial portion of the second flange, the second component having a second articular surface opposite the second bearing surface for cooperating with the first articular surface to permit articulating motion between the first and second components.

2. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second vertebrae are in a spondylosed relationship and the first flange is offset relative to the second flange to accommodate insertion into the spondylosed first and second vertebrae.

3. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second vertebrae are in an aligned relationship and the first flange is aligned with the second flange to accommodate insertion into the aligned first and second vertebrae.

4. (Previously presented) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first bearing surface is adapted to engage the first vertebra.

5. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 4 wherein the first flange extends along a substantial portion of the first bearing surface.

6. (Previously presented) The prosthetic device of claim 4 wherein the second bearing surface is adapted to engage the second vertebra.

7. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 6 wherein the second flange extends along a substantial portion of the second bearing surface.

8. (Previously presented) A prosthetic device for lateral insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising

a first component having a first laterally-extending flange for engaging a first vertebra from a lateral approach, the first flange extending from a first bearing surface offset from a first center point of the first bearing surface, the first component having a first articular surface opposite the first bearing surface, and

a second component having a second laterally-extending flange for engaging a second vertebra from a lateral approach, the second flange extending from a second bearing surface offset from a second center point of the second bearing surface, the second component having a second articular surface opposite the second bearing surface for cooperating with the first articular surface to permit articulating motion between the first and second components, wherein the first and second flanges each comprise at least one hole therethrough.

9. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 6 wherein the first and second bearing surfaces are each coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.

10. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges are each coated with a bone-growth promoting substance.

11. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second flanges each comprise a sharp portion for penetrating the first and second vertebrae, respectively.

12. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 1 wherein the first and second components are formed of a cobalt-chrome-molybdenum metallic alloy.

13. (Previously presented) A prosthetic device for lateral insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising

a first component having a first laterally-extending flange for engaging a first vertebra from a lateral approach, the first flange extending from a first bearing surface offset from a first center point of the first bearing surface, the first component having a first articular surface opposite the first bearing surface, and

a second component having a second laterally-extending flange for engaging a second vertebra from a lateral approach, the second flange extending from a second bearing surface offset from a second center point of the second bearing surface, the second component having a second articular surface opposite the second bearing surface for cooperating with the first articular surface to permit articulating motion between the first and second components, wherein the first and second components each comprise at least one notch formed laterally therein for receiving a surgical instrument.

14. (Previously presented) A prosthetic device for lateral insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising

a first component having a first laterally-extending flange for engaging a first vertebra from a lateral approach, the first flange extending from a first bearing surface offset from a first center point of the first bearing surface, the first component having a first articular surface opposite the first bearing surface, and

a second component having a second laterally-extending flange for engaging a second vertebra from a lateral approach, the second flange extending from a second bearing surface offset from a second center point of the second bearing surface, the second component having a second articular surface opposite the second bearing surface for cooperating with the first

articular surface to permit articulating motion between the first and second components, wherein the first component comprises a projection extending from the first articular surface.

15. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 14 wherein the second component comprises a recess formed in the second articular surface.

16. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 15 wherein the projection is a convex portion and the recess is a concave portion.

17. (Original) The prosthetic device of claim 16 wherein the convex portion and the concave portion cooperate to permit articulating motion between the first and second components.

18-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A prosthetic device for insertion into an intervertebral space defined between a pair of spondylosed vertebrae, comprising:

a first component, comprising:

a first flange laterally extending along a first bearing surface, the first flange including a first portion adjacent the bearing surface and a second portion spaced from the bearing surface, the second portion laterally extending along a substantial portion of the first flange; and

a projection extending from a first articular surface; and

a second component adapted to be engaged with the first component, comprising:
a second flange laterally extending along a second bearing surface, the second flange including a first portion adjacent the bearing surface and a second portion spaced from the bearing surface, the second portion laterally extending along a substantial portion of the second flange, the second flange being offset from the first flange [[upon]] and the second bearing surface being substantially parallel to the first bearing surface during engagement of the second component with the first component, thereby accommodating a spondylosed relationship between a first vertebra and a second vertebra; and

a recess formed in the second articular surface;
wherein the projection and the recess engage one another to provide for articulating motion between the first and second components.

23. (Currently amended) A prosthetic component for forming a portion of a prosthetic device, comprising a first surface having a flange configured to advance into a laterally extending preformed opening in a vertebra from a lateral approach, the flange including a first portion adjacent the first surface and a second portion spaced from the first surface, the second portion laterally extending along a substantial portion of the second flange, the flange ~~extending substantially laterally along the first surface and being~~ offset from a center point of the first surface, and a second surface in an opposed relation to the first surface, the second surface being adapted to engage another prosthetic component.

24. (Previously presented) A method for inserting a prosthetic device into an intervertebral space from a lateral approach, comprising
providing a prosthetic device having a first articular component and a first flange extending laterally along a surface of the first articular component, and a second articular component and a second flange extending laterally along a surface of the second articular component, and

laterally inserting the first articular component into a first vertebra, and laterally inserting the second articular component into a second vertebra such that the second flange is offset with respect to the first flange and the surfaces of the first and second components are substantially parallel, the second vertebra being adjacent to the first vertebra.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the first and second flanges engage and penetrate the first and second vertebra, respectively, during insertion.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the first and second flanges are inserted into preformed openings of the first and second vertebra, respectively, during insertion.

27. (Previously presented) A method for laterally inserting a prosthetic device into an intervertebral disc space between a first vertebra and a second vertebra, comprising:

providing a prosthetic device, comprising:

a first articular component, comprising:

a bearing surface and an articular surface;

a substantially laterally-extending keel formed on the bearing surface for engaging the first vertebrae, the keel offset from a central portion of the bearing surface; and

a recess formed in the articular surface;

a second articular component, comprising:

a bearing surface and an articular surface;

a substantially laterally-extending keel formed on the bearing surface for engaging the second vertebrae, the keel offset from a central portion of the bearing surface; and

a projection extending from the articular surface for engaging the recess of the first articular component;

substantially laterally inserting the prosthetic device into the intervertebral disc space to engage the prosthetic device with the first and second vertebrae.

28. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 8 wherein the first and second vertebrae are in a spondylosed relationship and the first flange is offset relative to the second flange to accommodate insertion into the spondylosed first and second vertebrae.

29. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 8 wherein the first and second vertebrae are in an aligned relationship and the first flange is aligned with the second flange to accommodate insertion into the aligned first and second vertebrae.

30. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 8 wherein the first flange extends along a substantial portion of the first bearing surface.

31. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 8 wherein the second flange extends along a substantial portion of the second bearing surface.

32. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 8 wherein the first and second components each comprise at least one notch formed laterally therein for receiving a surgical instrument.

33. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 8 wherein the first component comprises a projection extending from the first articular surface and the second component comprises a recess in the second articular surface, the recess being sized to receive the projection.

34. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 13 wherein the first and second vertebrae are in a spondylosed relationship and the first flange is offset relative to the second flange to accommodate insertion into the spondylosed first and second vertebrae.

35. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 13 wherein the first and second vertebrae are in an aligned relationship and the first flange is aligned with the second flange to accommodate insertion into the aligned first and second vertebrae.

36. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 13 wherein the first flange extends along a substantial portion of the first bearing surface.

37. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 13 wherein the second flange extends along a substantial portion of the second bearing surface.

38. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 13 wherein the first component comprises a projection extending from the first articular surface and the second component comprises a recess in the second articular surface, the recess being sized to receive the projection.

39. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 13 wherein the first and second flanges each comprise at least one hole therethrough.

40. (New) The prosthetic device of claim 14 wherein the first and second components each comprise at least one notch formed laterally therein for receiving a surgical instrument.